

Caution in Tobacco Growing Advised

Department of Agriculture Says "Plunging" by Farmers Would Be Unwise—War Conditions Keep Prices Up.

Washington, Feb. 14.—"Plunging" in tobacco growing to the neglect of other crops is not justified by the present tobacco situation, which the department of agriculture, in a statement issued today, describes as difficult. In territory where tobacco is a new crop, recently introduced to replace cotton under boll-weevil conditions, as in portions of South Carolina and Georgia, the best interests of the farmers, the statement says, appear to lie in the development of a safe and well-diversified system of farming rather than to plunge from the uncertainty of cotton production to the possibility still greater uncertainty of tobacco production under existing conditions. While it is impossible, the statement declares, to arrive at the quantity of tobacco Europe will be prepared to purchase during the next year or two, it seems likely that any considerable increase over the 1918 crop in the flue-cured section would be followed by a decline in market prices.

The largest crop of tobacco the country has ever produced is being marketed, and while prevailing market prices are very high for some of the leading types, such abnormal prices are said to be due primarily to war conditions. The department points out that the country has grown three large crops of tobacco in succession, with no decided shortage in production of any of the leading types.

As compared with pre-war figures, exports of leaf tobacco were somewhat above normal in 1916, much below normal in 1917, and still slightly below the average in 1918, average exports for these three years being approximately 380,000,000 pounds as against an average of 416,000,000 pounds for the three years ending with 1913.

The quantity of leaf tobacco annually consumed in domestic manufacture during the last three years shows an increase of about 100,000,000 pounds over the preceding period, due largely to a decided progressive increase in the manufacture of cigarettes. However, present indications are that no more tobacco was consumed in domestic manufacture in 1918 than in the preceding year. Stocks of leaf tobacco in the hands of dealers and manufacturers as of January 1 are reported as about 1,235,000,000 pounds for all types, a considerable increase over the figures of previous years. With a 1918 crop estimated at 1,240,000,000 pounds, a domestic consumption of about 720,000,000 pounds, leaving a large surplus over pre-war export requirements, and with stocks of leaf tobacco in the hands of dealers and manufacturers above the normal, it seems obvious, says the department, that ordinarily there would be a tendency toward lower prices. Unfortunately there appears to be no means available at this time for arriving at the European requirements for leaf tobacco and its products during the next year. Cigar leaf, practically all of which goes into domestic consumption, has declined sharply in price since the signing of the armistice, and the market for this type has been inactive. The fire-cured types, which are exported perhaps to the extent of 80 per cent of the production, are selling at moderately high prices. The flue-cured type, somewhat more than half of which is normally exported, and Burley, which ordinarily is not an export type, have been selling at abnormally high prices.

The situation with reference to flue-cured tobacco is of special importance in view of the extraordinarily large crop of last year and the possibility of a further large increase in the crop this year, particularly in eastern North Carolina and in South Carolina and Georgia, where cotton is the chief competing crop. The situation would seem to be one calling for the exercise of caution by farmers, particularly on the part of those who have not previously grown the crop and would need to provide new curing barns and other equipment.

Held in Washington

Wounded Abbeville Negro to Be Brought to State.

Washington, Feb. 13.—Traveling more than 500 miles with serious gunshot wounds in the thigh and hand, a negro, giving his name as Marks Smith, 24 years of age, of Abbeville today, was arrested by the police of the Eighth Precinct at Freedman's hospital and is being held for the sheriff of Abbeville. Smith, who came here by a Southern train Saturday, admits that his wounds were received in an affray with revenue officers, and he is suspected of being a moonshiner. He admits the police say, that he wounded one of the officers who tried to capture him.

Make It More Attractive

Glass Asks for Wider Authority on Next Loan.

Washington, Feb. 13.—Secretary Glass told the house ways and means committee that it was apparent "something must be done to make the bonds or notes of the victory liberty loan more attractive than their predecessors" and asked that congress give him authority to fix interest rates and determine exemptions from taxation according to financial conditions existing when the loan is floated in April.

The head of the nation's financial system also urged that authority be given the war finance corporation to make advances to exporters not to exceed \$1,000,000,000 and that the purposes for which the treasury may make loans to foreign governments be broadened. Mr. Glass said both provisions were necessary to restoration of the country's foreign trade and would be mutually helpful to this government and the allies.

Bourgeois Plan Is Rejected

President Wilson Will Read Twenty-Six Articles to Plenary Meeting of Conference To-Day.

Paris, Feb. 13 (By the Associated Press).—The Bourgeois proposition for an interallied military force to enforce peace was defeated by an overwhelming vote at the meeting of the Society of Nations commission today.

The French and Czechoslovaks were the only representatives in the affirmative.

The draft of the society of nations plan was then unanimously adopted as a whole.

The final draft consists of 26 articles. President Wilson will personally read the draft to a plenary meeting of the peace conference tomorrow. The conference will not be asked to finally adopt it at this time. The Japanese delegation presented an amendment providing that racial discrimination should not be tolerated in immigration laws.

Several delegates urged that this would open such a large question that great delay might ensue, and the matter was dropped without a vote.

Oppose Big Army

Military Committee's Stand Brings Forth Applause—Not Over 175,000 Men.

Washington, Feb. 12.—General opposition to a standing army in excess of 175,000 men as authorized in the national defense act three years ago, was voiced in the house today during debate on the annual army appropriation bill with its provision for a military force of 536,000 officers and men during the period of demobilization.

Chairman Dent of the military committee was questioned closely as to the future army with several members asking if the force provided in the bill was to be the permanent army strength. The chairman explained that it was not and there was general applause from both sides of the House when Representative McKenzie, of Illinois, Republican, said the military committee favored a small army.

Mr. McKenzie said the proposal of the army general staff for a permanent peace time military establishment of 500,000 had been rejected by the committee, and Representative Kahn, of California, Republican, interrupted to say that not a single member of the committee favored the proposal.

Discussion in the House continued throughout the day with leaders offering no prediction as to when a vote would be taken on the measure, which carries a total of \$1,100,000,000 for the war department during the fiscal year beginning next July 1.

Debate was not confined to the bill itself. There was criticism of the war department, praise for Gen. Pershing and various American units which fought in France, discussion of Bolshevism and protest against President Wilson accepting a set of books as a birthday gift from King George, of England.

Much of the discussion was given over to the National Guard. Representative McKenzie said that whatever the future military policy might be the National Guard should be retained and his declaration was vigorously applauded. Other members in urging retention of the guard after demobilization praised the work of the guard divisions during the war.

Goes to Defend Self

Washington, Feb. 13.—F. H. Engelken, former director of the mint and later president of the farm loan bank at Columbia, is on his way to Washington, according to the statement of friends here today, who wired him to come on and take care of his case before the senate judiciary committee and to answer charges found against him by the South Carolina Council of Defense, through Former Senator Christie Benet.

These charges, which have already been made public through the press, go to the bottom of Mr. Engelken's loyalty to the United States at a time when he was holding a responsible and lucrative position under the treasury department. If the charges are sustained, as Mr. Benet said they must be by the affidavits on file, there is much speculation as to what the next step will be.

Governor Manning and Senator Benet are prepared to carry the matter to its limit if necessary to further substantiate the charges which they have filed here under affidavits and at the same time, Mr. Engelken, his friends say, is in fighting trim.

No indication of what the committee investigating the charges, with other alleged pro-German matters, would do was forthcoming today nor could it be ascertained whether the reports from the secret service department of the treasury had yet been examined. It stated that Mr. Engelken will not let the matter rest where it is but will insist that there be a show-down with no "whitewashing."

A Former Sumter Boy.

Among former Sumter boys who have seen much active service in France is Kenneth Harby, who left here several years ago to rejoin his family who had moved from Sumter to Little Rock, Ark. He gave up a position in which he was doing well to train with the 312th Engineers at Camp Pike, Ark., and later at Camp Dix, N. J. From there he was sent to the front where he has had a strenuous experience in that branch of our army which has won so many laurels. His friends will regret to learn that he has recently been ill with pneumonia in a hospital in France. His last letter reported that he was convalescing.

The banks are now ready to distribute the last issue of Liberty Bonds to purchasers.

Safety First

To Farmers and Business Men in Cotton Territory.

Washington, Feb. 12.—The department of agriculture is just issuing a bulletin which I have prepared for the purpose of putting the present situation up to the farmers and business men. It is entitled "Safe Farming in the Southern States in 1919." Ask your county agent for a copy.

The present situation is the most dangerous which the cotton states have faced in recent years. You have had four years of comparative prosperity, partly because of four short crops of cotton with resultant good prices, and partly because you produced so much of your own food and feed. During the last four years there have been short crops in Texas mainly due to drought. In 1911, 1912, 1913 and 1914 the Texas crop averaged 4,418,250 bales, while during 1915, 1916, 1917 and 1918 it averaged only 3,164,500 bales, or 1,253,750 bales less per annum. Texas has had good rains this winter. From 1911 to 1914, inclusive, Oklahoma averaged 1,036,250 bales per annum. From 1915 to 1918, inclusive, the average was only 742,250 bales or 294,000 bales less per annum, mainly due to drought. Oklahoma has had splendid rains this winter. A big crop in Texas and Oklahoma has always meant a big crop in the whole country. Think that over before you decide to increase your acreage in cotton.

Will the mills of Northern France and Belgium be restored to full working capacity at once? Certainly not! Will the poor people of Europe seek food or cotton first? Food, of course! People can and will wear patched clothing and sleep without pillow cases and sheets if need be, but the hungry stomach must be fed. Think about that.

The last four years have been a period of gradually increasing prices. Farmers and business men have profited out of this constant increase. Cotton just about kept pace with other things. A pound or an acre of it would buy about the same quantity of other commodities in 1918 at 30 cents a pound as it did in 1914 at 12 cents a pound. But during this time the farmers had the advantage of purchasing supplies in the spring and summer at one level of prices and then selling cotton in the fall at the top price of the year and paying the debts contracted at the lower prices. Be on your guard now, for when prices begin to settle down the situation becomes more difficult. We may be in the position of making a crop of cotton with high-priced supplies and settling our debts out of cotton at a lower price. Especially will this be true if we produce a very large crop and thereby do all in our power to lower the market price of cotton. Has not a large crop always meant lower prices? Think that over.

What about acreage? Let us look at the acreage figures in the bulletin. The total for 1918 was 35,890,600. Oklahoma had more acres planted in 1918 than in either 1911, 1913 or 1914. Texas had more acres in 1918 than in 1911 and only about 700,000 acres less than in 1914. The years 1911, 1913, 1914 were good years with big crops and generally low prices. With only 150,000 acres more in the whole country in 1911 than we had in the whole country in 1918, we produced 15,693,000 bales, and the farm price December 1, 1911, averaged 8.8 cents per pound. In 1913 we had 37,089,000 acres and produced 14,156,000 bales, and the farm price averaged 12.2 cents per pound December 1, 1913. In 1914 we had 36,332,000 acres, or only 942,000 acres more than in 1918, and yet the production was 16,135,000 bales and the farm price December 1, 1914 was 6.8 cents per pound on the average, due in part no doubt, to the war in Europe. Think this over.

With less acres than last year and a good season we can easily make a very large crop, especially with good production in Texas and Oklahoma. In 1912 with only 34,283,000 acres we made 13,703,000 bales of cotton. With a good season ahead of us, would you increase the acreage?

Which would you rather do, produce more cotton and take a less price for it after working a larger number of acres at greater expense, or limit your production to a smaller number of acres, better tended, permitting the full production of your food and feed and a better chance for a good price?

It is absolute folly to upset the present prosperity of the cotton States by planting a large acreage which can only mean a large crop and a lower price. I hear rumors of farmers selling their livestock to put their land all in cotton. Such action is inviting disaster. If farmers, landlords, merchants and bankers combine to pull the house down upon their own heads by producing a large crop of cotton, they should have the courage to make no appeal to the rest of the world for help if their own action leads them into distress.

But remember that there is a good way. Look in the bulletin. Food plus cotton equals prosperity. Full production of the food for our people and the feed for our growing livestock industry in the South should be the first and most important consideration. Safe farming demands caution this time. Supply your own needs first as a sound measure of protection, then hold your cotton acreage down to a moderate figure, less than in 1918, in order that we may safeguard the production and not destroy our prosperity by deliberately over-producing. It is up to the South to play a safe game. Safety first demands that every cotton farmer, big and little, shall cooperate in holding down the cotton acreage.

Yours very truly,
Bradford Knapp, Chief.

There is a proposition before the Legislature to abolish the office of County Supervisor and employ a competent road engineer to do the work the Supervisors are supposed to do. The business affairs of the counties, under this plan, would be directed by the Board of County Commissioners and its clerk. The plan is a most excellent idea.

Radio Control of Torpedoes Found

Army and Navy Indorse Hammond's Invention.

Washington, Feb. 14.—Army and navy experts have reported the device of John Hays Hammond, Jr., for radio control of surface craft to be sent laden with explosives against enemy ships, a success, and predict similar results with submerged craft showing above water only wireless antennae.

Results of tests were made public today in connection with the new fortifications appropriation bill which carries \$417,000 for construction of an experimental submerged boat.

Secretary Baker wrote the house appropriations committee, which is considering the bill that the army and navy board was "convinced of the practicability of the control" of the surface craft, and added that there had also been demonstrations of the possibility of the control to aircraft, completely submerged except for an air intake pipe. Before finally deciding on the purchase of the patents \$750,000 the board desired further experiment with the submerged craft and a change in law for the experiments is necessary to permit building so as to make success certain before purchase.

Construction of the submerged craft which will be about 80 feet and seven feet in diameter will take two years, according to Mr. Hammond, who told the committee he has spent ten years and \$400,000 on his invention.

"There is no question whatever as to the ability to control with great accuracy the torpedo or carrier, whatever kind it is," said a letter of Maj. Gen. F. W. Coe, a member of the board, "so long as it is a surface vessel or has any antennae above the water, by direct radio waves, either from shore or from airplane."

"The board had before it also and considered the ability of the enemy to interfere with the control of the vessel by radio energy. Mr. Hammond's claims are that no interference can be had with the craft outside a radius of 100 to 150 yards from the source of the energy; that is from the radio plant on a battleship, for example."

"With such radius a certain interference from a powerful wireless station is possible but that interference with the apparatus only operates to keep the torpedo on a fixed course on which it may be running."

With a shore station, having a height of 80 feet above sea level, radio control of the craft has been demonstrated to the board up to a distance of about seven miles, but General Coe said if controlled from an airplane there was no limit as to distance except the propelling power of the torpedo the boat that carried it, or that airplane.

"A surface launch with the apparatus on it," stated General Coe, relating demonstrations before the board, was controlled from both the shore and from an airplane the means of control in each case being the same. The board also witnessed the dropping of dummy depth charges from the stern of the boat while it was proceeding on any desired course. General Coe said he had run the craft "all around vessels coming into the harbor at will" and at close ranges there would be no difficulty in ramming a vessel from shore.

Mr. Hammond said an aviator after four hours' training on control had risen 9,000 feet in a seaplane and taken control of a high speed boat running on the surface of the water.

"He was able from the height of 9,000 feet and a distance of six or seven miles in a horizontal plane to exercise absolute control over the high speed boat," declared Mr. Hammond. "He was able to take it in and out of Gloucester harbor through all the shipping, around the buoys and aim at a rapidly moving target with such precision he could practically strike eight times out of ten. A battleship would be obviously easy to strike."

Besides carrying the provision to make possible the construction of the submerged Hammond boat the fortifications bill which carries a total of \$11,199,200 for sea coast defense includes legislation for a complete financial accounting on fortifications appropriation being made to congress at the end of the next fiscal year.

German Sailors Were Intimidated by Mines.

Lawford, Eng. Feb. 10.—The fact that one British warship penetrated the guard patrol of the German High Seas Fleet after the battle of Jutland and laid mines to cut off their retreat has just been disclosed.

The information became public through the presentation to a Lawford church of a flag of the warship Abdiel, of 1,556 tons and a speed of 40 knots.

The inscription accompanying the flag testifies that the Abdiel "slipped through the redoubled guards of patrols on the night of the battle of Jutland, May 31—June 1, 1916, and laid a great series of mines close to the German coast, blocking the entrance of their retreating ships into the harbor. This dangerous night's work, 'adds the inscription' was completely carried out and the havoc among the German ships was so great that their crews mutinied and refused to go out again. 'The white ensign presented to the church was flown by the Abdiel in the Jutland battle.'"

Dr. Mills to Go to France.

Clemson College, Feb. 11.—Dr. William H. Mills, professor of rural sociology in Clemson College, left today to go to New York in order to sail the latter part of this week for France to engage in educational work with the Overseas Educational Commission. Dr. Mills will have charge of the rural sociology work in one of the seven districts into which the work is to be divided and will have associated with him a number of teachers of rural sociology from this country. He has secured leave of absence from his work at Clemson for one year and will remain in France that long if needed for this work.

Press of Paris on Peace

Name of President Wilson Frequently Mentioned.

Paris, Feb. 12.—The Paris newspapers today in their discussion of the nations question make frequent reference to President Wilson.

"Mr. Wilson is decidedly a lucky man," writes Arthur Meyer, editor of The Gaulois. "He had in his brain of philosopher and apostle conceived a certain plan. It was in 1915. He was of the opinion that the war into which conscience had not yet drawn him, would produce no complete victor and no wholly vanquished. In consequence of this he had built up a whole series of propositions which he now dislikes to abandon."

"But there has been vanquished and there have been victors, an whom is the United States. Gen. Wilson had to ask for an armistice. It is regrettable for the conceptions of Mr. Wilson, but it is very fortunate for us. Had there been no victor or no vanquished, the solution of the actual difficulties would have been much easier. Nothing would have prevented the formation of the league of nations of which Mr. Wilson dreams, as all the belligerents could have been included."

"But if Mr. Wilson persists in his original plan of which no thinking being can deny the generosity, we desire that he should remember the necessity of certain guarantees which were not excluded from his original plan and we doubt if the creation of an international police force would be sufficient to guarantee us the security to which we are entitled."

Mr. Meyer's contention is that France should have a defensive frontier as well as a membership in the league of nations.

287,332 TROOPS RETURNED.

Washington, Feb. 12.—From the signing of the armistice to February 8, 287,332 American troops in France and Great Britain had embarked for the United States, while up to February 10, 57,545 officers and 1,069,116 men had been demobilized in this country. Total arrivals of overseas troops up to February 7 were 215,749.

These figures were made public today by Secretary Baker, together with others relating to the number of sick and wounded now in France and the number returned home. In France being treated for disease on February 1, totaled 62,561, and those suffering from wounds were 24,484. The aggregate of 87,045 was 4,688 less than in the preceding week and 106,493 less than the number in hospitals overseas on November 14.

Since the end of hostilities 53,042 sick and wounded have arrived in this country, bringing the total since the beginning of the war to 2,120. On February 1 the occupied beds in hospitals in the United States numbered 60,777, while there were 47,048 vacant beds available for returning cases.

Sand-clay and ordinary dirt roads will no stand up under the heavy traffic of automobiles and trucks and if business is to be carried on in this country, if the farmers are to be able to market their produce at a reasonable cost, substantial and permanent roads must be built. Such roads will cost a lot of money, but they will be worth all that they cost. People who do not want to live under modern conditions and pay the price should move into some undeveloped region where they can live amidst pioneer conditions and pay no taxes.

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